

Workers Uncover Five Layers of Concrete – Three More than East Stairs

Capitol West Stairs Demolition Proves More Formidable Task



West Stairs demolition uncovers five layers of concrete (inset photo)

When construction workers began breaking up the old concrete on the **Statehouse West Stairs** over the past several days as part of the Capitol Restoration effort, they discovered the task ahead would be more formidable than they first thought.

The old drawings of the West Stairs indicated there were possibly three layers of concrete to be demolished, the original stairs and two subsequent overlays. While trying to break through one area of concrete, the contractor was frustrated with how long it was taking and how much effort was required. When the machinery finally broke through there were **five layers of concrete, each one about 6 to 8 inches thick**. This is a different situation than the two layers encountered on the East stairs.

Why so many layers? According to **Jan Frew**, Design and Construction Manager for the Division of Public Works, “that’s a mystery.” In fact, if anyone may know the reason, she would like to hear from you.

Insulation Blankets Placed to Help Reduce Noise

The contractor is taking some extra steps to reduce the noise infiltration. They are using insulation blankets to help reduce the echoing of noise and also help reduce the vibration transfer of noise. Workers are also utilizing a big backhoe and dump truck to dig out remains of the existing stairs. Alternative work hours have been

discussed as a method of alleviating the noise. However, the state would have to pay a substantial premium for after-hours work, and there could be a delay in the completion of the project. The noisy part of the demolition work should be completed around February 11. **A reminder, earplugs are available at the Legislative Services Office, Room 108, or at the Legislative Information Desk.**

If you noticed fluorescent paint with what appears to be strange hieroglyphics on sidewalks and streets surrounding the Statehouse, Jan assures readers those were not left there by extraterrestrials. Those are markings made by the survey crew from Toothman-Orton Engineering to identify and locate the existing underground utilities. Contrary to some rumors, no digging is scheduled to take place at this time. The information gathered is being used in preparing the construction drawings.

Please note: The intent of **renewal news** is to provide readers the most current and complete information as possible regarding construction activities during the Capitol Restoration project. However, construction schedules are always subject to change, based upon weather conditions, transport and acquisition of support equipment and personnel, or other unforeseen circumstances. Inquiries, comments on the Restoration effort can be sent to **Diane Blume** at: dblume@adm.state.id.us See **renewal news** online at: <http://www.capitolcommission.idaho.gov/restoration/> If you have **questions about renewal news**, contact Carole Schroeder at **332-1802** or cschroed@adm.state.id.us